

*“If it wasn't for Aimhigher I probably wouldn't of thought about going to university or how to get in.”*

# *Join Us and Help Your Students Aimhigher!*

*Aimhigher West Midlands is a partnership of 12 of the region's leading universities and higher education providers.*

## *What we do*

Aimhigher West Midlands provides a free single point of contact service to the region's higher education providers, schools and colleges. Our website and customer enquiry services are designed to make it easier for colleagues to discover and engage in activities that enhance their provision of higher education aspiration and attainment raising activities to students.

Aimhigher West Midlands also coordinates a range of activities collaborative programmes for students in late Primary education and Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. Our partners provide the majority of the funding and many of the activities on offer are completely free of charge. However, due to large reductions in government funding some of our activities require a small contribution from partner schools or colleges. Many use Pupil premium funding to support their involvement in these.



We work to help state-funded schools and colleges across the West Midlands inspire the next generation by engaging their students in a wide range of higher education-related outreach activities designed to help learners from disadvantaged backgrounds:

- Become motivated and confident about their learning and progression
- Make informed decisions
- Explore the world of higher education and what it might mean for them.

We also help schools and colleges meet their statutory duties to provide careers guidance, raise attainment and improve the destinations of disadvantaged and Pupil Premium students.

## *Making a difference...*

Students who engage in Aimhigher and Higher Education Outreach activities are more knowledgeable and confidence about their learning, progression and future career options. Local and national research shows that, after being involved in our work they go on to:

- Achieve between 1.5 and 3 grades above their predicted GCSE results
- Are more likely to progress to Level 3 study and far less likely to become NEET
- Apply for university in greater numbers than other learners from disadvantaged backgrounds
- Become more geographically and socially mobile.

## Aimhigher West Midlands Services for Schools and Colleges Overview 2015/2016

<p><b>Higher Education Outreach Activities:</b> Brokerage and support to access the opportunities offered by our 12 universities and college partners, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University-based Masterclasses, taster days and subject enrichment events</li> <li>• Campus-visit opportunities</li> <li>• Support for school / college parents' evenings ,options events, assemblies and career or progression fairs</li> <li>• Workshops on university application and student finance</li> <li>• Supported Access Schemes and University residentials</li> <li>• Activities for Primary School Pupils</li> <li>• Support for Community-based groups</li> <li>• Enquiry management and support to identify opportunities for your students</li> </ul>	Free
<p><b>Staff Development Teachers and Careers Advisers:</b> Monthly e-Bulletins, Aimhigher Forums and a major annual conference giving all partners access to expert speakers and the latest developments in higher education and careers information, advice and guidance.</p>	Free
<p><b>Good Practice Resources and Support:</b> Web-based resources to support careers progression work with students. Advice on how to structure and deliver effective higher education and related careers enrichment curricula</p>	Free
<p><b>Aimhigher Immersion Days:</b> Themed around broad career pathways, Aimhigher Days are an exciting university-based combination of hands-on learning, campus tours and motivational talks designed to inspire and inform students before they enter Key Stage 4.</p>	Free for partners involved in Aimhigher Mentoring or UniFest activities
<p><b>Learning Choices:</b> Systematic assessment of the learning and career aspirations of an agreed cohort to inform school or college curriculum planning and meet Ofsted and careers guidance requirements.</p>	
<p><b>Aimhigher Undergraduate Mentoring:</b> Aimhigher Mentors are a source of fully trained, DBS checked support for students in Years 7 to 13. Mentors work with as many as 5 students for up to 12 weeks, using a mix of 1:1, group and on-line support.</p>	£400 per mentor (£80 per student supported)
<p><b>Aimhigher "UniFest" Summer Schools:</b> 3 day / 2 night events to give learners in Year 10 a chance to really explore university life and study.</p>	£50 per 3 day / 2 night residential placement

### Want to know more?

Register your interest on-line by visiting our website

[www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk](http://www.aimhigherwm.ac.uk) or contact

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*"It has made me realise how important this year is, and made me focus and put more effort into work and revision"*